

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 SP-02 PM-03 L-01
NSC-05 ACDA-10 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01 DHA-02
USIA-01 IO-06 /059 W
-----052491 252305Z /75-61

R 251334Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4281
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL OSLO 3841

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, USSR, NO
SUBJECT: U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
I RASIED THE TOPIC OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

2. I NOTED THAT WHILE THE USSR HAD NOT YET COME FULLY TO
GRIPS WITH THE APPROACH OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN
THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD, RELATIONS WERE BETTER NOW THAN
THEY HAD BEEN A FEW MONTHS AGO. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE
HAD BEEN A NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S
CHARLESTON SPEECH. THE MAIN PROBLEM, FOR THE SOVIET SIDE,
I SAID, SEEMED TO BE ONE OF CONFUSION CONCERNING THE NEW
U.S. APPROACH.

3. FRYDENLUND AGREED, IN ESSENCE, WITH THIS APPRAISAL AND
SAID THAT HE LOOKED FOR SOME MONTHS OF "INSECURITY"
BEFORE THINGS SETTLED DOWN.

4. FRYDENLUND OBSERVED THAT, HERETOFORE, THE USSR HAD
LOOKED AT DETENTE AS AFFECTING ONLY THE ACTIONS AMONG
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STATES, WHILE IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.
HE SAID THAT, WHILE HE KNEW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S
COMMIMTMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A DEEPLY HELD COMMITMENT,
THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD
ALSO AMOUNTED TO AN IDEOLOGICAL OFFENSIVE. FRYDENLUND
OBSERVED THAT THIS MIGHT PROVE TO BE USEFUL SINCE THE
USSR MIGHT, AFTER A WHILE, BE READY FOR AN IDEOLOGICAL

CEASE-FIRE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OSLO03841
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770308-0212
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770824/aaaaatma.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54627053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1487343
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, UR, NO, (FRYDENLUND, KNUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54627053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009